

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF CHANCRE FLUID & SERUM SPECIMENS

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTE: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, the specimen will not be tested.

NOTE: The 12 x 55 mm tubes provided are not sterile and must not be used for the submission of CSF, throat swabs or other specimens for bacterial or viral culture.

1. Remove detritus from the lesion with sterile cotton or gauze. DO NOT USE DISINFECTANTS! Abrade the periphery of the lesion with a dull edged scalpel or similar instrument. Pinch firmly to enhance the flow of fluid. Allow sufficient time for accumulation of the fluid.
2. IMPORTANT: Care must be taken not to impose fingerprints or oily material on the surfaces of slides. Label slides with the same name/unique identifier that is used on the requisition. Place exudate on same side of smear as the specimen identifier.
 - a. Use a sterile cotton swab to collect the fluid, and make four films within the circled areas on the two slides provided. The best films are made by touching or lightly rolling the swab within the circles. Do not smear the material on the slide, since this may breakup the treponemes.
 - b. In cases where there is only a small amount of exudate, the slides may be used to collect the specimen directly. Flame the slides and allow to cool. Place a circled area of the slide directly on the lesion and cover the entire circle with the exudate.
3. Air dry the slides for twenty minutes to inactivate treponemes and render them noninfectious before mailing.
4. Place slides in plastic holder provided for mailing.
5. Perform venipuncture. After sufficient clotting (one hour at room temperature), centrifuge the whole blood to separate cells from serum.
6. Transfer serum to the plastic, skirted-cap, tube provided (minimum volume of 2.5 mL).
7. Label tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the slides and test requisition.
8. Record the name/unique identifier on the tube/slide/requisition for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
9. Refrigerate serum at two to eight degrees centigrade until ready to ship to the laboratory.
10. When ready to ship, place plastic holder containing slides and tube containing serum specimen wrapped in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue, into aluminum screw-capped can and tighten the cap.

11. Place aluminum can with completed test requisition on the outside of the container into screw-capped cardboard container and secure tightened cap with tape.
12. Complete and apply the orange, return shipping, diagnostic specimen label to cardboard container and ship by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g., courier, bus, U.S. First Class, Priority or Express mail etc.).

The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with current regulations.